

WOMEN
ORGANIZED
FOR ACTION

SAN FRANCISCO

July 25, 1973

Melvin M. Belli, Esq.
Belli, Ashe, Ellison, Choulos and Lieff
722 Montgomery Street
San Francisco, California 94111

Dear Mr. Belli:

We learned through news reports that you have agreed to handle the sterilization suit on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Relf and their two children. In light of this involvement, I thought you would be interested in the attached letter which our organization sent to Senator Edward Kennedy.

As Black women, we are deeply concerned about the increasing trend toward involuntary sterilization and the performance of this procedure without informed consent. As increasing news stories indicate, these practices are being committed primarily on the Black poor, many of whom are recipients of public assistance. Unfortunately not enough of our citizens were knowledgeable about and sensitive to some of the issues involved in family planning/population control programs financed with federal funds. The shocking story of the sterilization of the two Relf children jogged us into action to protest these dastardly acts. Recent cases of coerced sterilizations have made us more aware of the concerns of many Blacks that family planning programs were just genocidal.

One of our members, Mrs. Naomi Gray has had over 20 years experience in family planning and is willing to talk with you about her experiences and knowledge of sterilization practices as these have affected Black and other poor women. Mrs. Gray can be reached in San Francisco at 387-5440.

Sincerely yours,



Dorothy Parrish
Coordinator

DP/cvj